

Application No. 10/645,311
Paper Dated February 23, 2005
In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of November 23, 2004
Attorney Docket No. 0388-031585

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-18 were pending in this application. Claim 12 is cancelled. Claim 10 is amended. No new subject matter is believed to have been added by these amendments. Therefore, claims 1, 4-11, and 13-18 remain in this application.

The Examiner has acknowledged that claims 1, 4-9, and 15-18 are allowed. Additionally, the Examiner has acknowledged that claim 12 is directed to allowable subject matter. Accordingly, independent claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 12. Claim 12 has been cancelled.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claims 10, 11, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Application JP 01-045829. Claims 10 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,731,983 to Yuki et al.

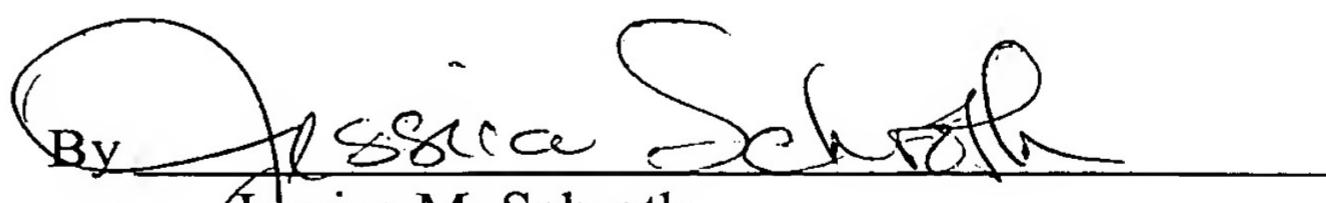
The Examiner indicated that claim 12 was directed to allowable subject matter. Independent claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 12. Claims 11, 13, and 14 depend from independent claim 10. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are now moot and request that they be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of claims 1, 4-11, and 13-18 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

WEBB ZIESENHEIM LOGSDON
ORKIN & HANSON, P.C.

By 

Jessica M. Schroth
Registration No. 47,102
Attorney for Applicants
700 Koppers Building
436 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219-1818
Telephone: 412-471-8815
Facsimile: 412-471-4094